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The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862. 617-891-8022

MONTHLY REPORT: Nothing! The nothingness of this month was carefully planned and coldly calculated. We didn't plan on doing anything, and that's exactly what we did. Well, that's not entirely true. Let's see. . . Sheila and I went to a thrilling Patriot's game and left before it started (thought we'd beat the traffic). Um. . . U.S. returned from the jungles with more heart-stopping war stories (mostly from Panamanian restaurants). Oh yes! We've been checking out possibilities for our eventual relocation. One possibility was advertised as a 14 acre lakefront retreat. With visions of mansions in the woods dancing in our heads, we checked it out. Before we went I jokingly mentioned to a number of persons that it was probably a shack in a swamp. It was not a joke. A sway-backed shack on a half acre of semi-dry land surrounded by a smelly bog. I think it was last used as the set for Tobacco Road. It really wasn't my idea of a country retreat.

If you can believe it, the highlight of this exciting month was the business meeting. This meeting was the best attended, and certainly one of the most productive meetings we've had yet.

The purpose of the meeting was to re-examine our search for facilities, and to plan our functions for the Fall. As for facilities, we're asking everyone to keep and eye out for something, and if something really super comes along, we'll grab it . In the meantime we'll plan on staying here for the winter, begin our search in earnest early next spring. As for functions, our first major function will be a party September 20. This party will be modeled after our April party, and we'll save our season's biggie till Halloween. Fantasia Fair of course is coming up October 17 thru 26, logically followed by Halloween. For that we'll invade some innocent hotel and have us a grand time. In November we thought it reasonable to celebrate Thanksgiving. (Our Programs Committee has a marvelous sense of timing.) Since the Tiffany club was born in December 1977, we thought rather than have another boring old Christmas party, we'd have a BIRTHDAY PARTY!! Wheee!

So much for August.

LOVE,

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Barbara and Marie
(Florence's Fashions)
(Private Consultants)
I told you they were beautiful, but, Barbara is not really as angellic as she looks.

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BE YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHER

by
Christine Lea

(This is part one of a two part series. The first part will concentrate on the techincal, and the second part on the actual taking of the photographs. Part II will be in next month's Tapestry.)

I think it's fair to assume that at one time or another, everyone interested in crossdressing has wished that she had some top quality photographs of herself. However, the thought of good photos inspires in some a vision of a great deal of involvement in time and money. This is not necessarily true! With just a small initial investment, and a little time spent preparing properly, anyone can take photos they will be proud to show to friends.

I am going to direct most of the following suggestions to the assumption that you will be working alone, taking your own pictures. If you have a friend to help, it does simplify things greatly.

The basic tools you will need are 1) a camera, 2) a shutter releasing mechanism, 3) a tripod, and 4) lights.

Most people have a camera of some sort around, or can borrow one. Obviously, the higher quality the equipment, the better, but you certainly don't need a Nikon or a Leica to good photos. Very good results can be achieved with even a small inexpensive camers such as an instamatic. The only requirement is that the camera have some way of remote shutter release. This could be either a timer (built in or separate) or a cable release. If your camera has any sort of threaded grooves inside of or around the shutter button, chances are it will accomodate a cable release.

Pneumatic releases are very inexpensive and come in lengths that suit our purposes. Usually a 20 foot length or longer is best for full body photos.

A fairly good tripod can usually be purchased from about $20 and up. Sometimes you can get away with setting your camera on a table or bookshelf to take the pictures, but this severely limits your photographic possibilities. A tripod allows you to change angles, camera position and location with ease. This in turn permits a more natural feeling in the final photos - you're not restricted to one small area as you would be if the camera was stuck in one spot.

(Photography, cont.)

Lighting is the single most important aspect of good photographs. With proper lighting you can do wonders to accentuate your best features, show off that pretty new dress, and produce a natural looking feminine portrait.

The best set up is with 2 (even better, 3) small floodlights. These can be picked up cheap, especially if you check flea markets, etc. A workable homemade setup can be accomplished by forming a cone of aluminum foil around a light fixture. A clamp attached to the light is helpful in proper positioning.

In portrait photography a couple of remote floods will usually give you much more pleasing results than a single camera mounted flash. A flash tends to wash out the shadows on the face, causing it to look somewhat flat and lifeless. It can also cause very dark, distracting shadows behind you. Other problems encountered with a flash include "red eye" caused by reflection from the eyes, and flares from glass or shiny objects behind you.

Flashes are fine for quick action shots, but are not really suited for portrait work (unless set up some distance from the camera). The basic arrangement for floods is shown below:

Start out with the lights at or slightly above head level. Of course, there are all sorts of variations in the placements of these lights. Sometimes its fun to experiment with such things as backlighting, low or high angle lighting or different size lights. A whole range of effects can be achieved with a little creative lighting.

If you are shooting black and white film, the type of light bulb used is unimportant, you can even use regular household bulbs. If you are using color film however, it is important that you use special photographic flood light bulbs. Color film exposed under household lights will turn out either a ghastly bluish color or an equally horrid orangish red. Unless you are into the "chic zombie" look, investment in proper lights is well worth it.

Your choice of film is entirely a matter of personal preference. A couple of things to keep in mind however; if shooting color, get film that is intended for use under artificial lights, and whether using color or B&W, use the fastest film practical. Floods are not as bright as a flash, therefore a slower exposure will be needed. 400 ASA film has always given me very good results.

Other items that are very helpful in portraiture, but are entirely optional, include:

A Bounce Reflection Screen. I use either a sheet of white poster board, or a poster board covered with aluminum foil. The floods are pointed at this sheet rather than directly at the subject of the portrait. This softens the lighting, thus reducing some of the harshness of the shadows.

A Neutral Density Card. Trying to take a light meter reading of yourself can prove difficult, to say the least. A 15" X 15" sheet of cardboard in a medium Pains grey color will give you a neutral spot to take your reading on. This will help eliminate bad exposures due to readings taken of a dark sofa, light window, etc.

(Photography, Cont.)

A Soft Focus Filter. Portraits taken just a tiny bit out of focus can do wonders to hide flaws such as wrinkles, beard shadow, etc. If you overdo it though, you come out looking like a shapeless blur. There are soft focus filters available for most of the more advanced (SLR) cameras. These filters give you the desired soft focus effect without the danger of taking the image too far out of focus.

(End of part I. Part II, Shooting Good Portraits, will be published next month.)

(ATTN: TRANSSEXUALS, and other interested persons)

THE ALPHA GAMMA PROJECT

A three-year, private foundation grant has been awarded to NANCY LEDINS, Ph.D. to study the potential aspects of reincarnational imprinting on sexually and genderally dysphoric persons, specifically the transsexual.

This $4500,000 project will study 450 transexuals over a three-year span. The project has been named the Alpha Gamma project by Dr. Ledins to highlight the gynandric-androgyny make-up of humans. The specific status questionis (state of the question) of the research project is: "Does any linkage exist between the genderally dysphoric person and reincarnational imprinting?"

The study will be anecdotal by its very nature since one cannot prove or disprove reincarnational possibilities. However, the study hopes to see some sense of pattern in such a large and extended project.

The study is based on the premises that, (a) our theories, to date, on transsexual causality, are still deficient; (b) a more holistic approach to the transsexual is possible. It is in this context that the concept of imprinting will be pursued.

It is the contention of the study, at least in its initial design, that the early life imprinting has been only a triggering back into some previous life or lives in which a more benign lifestyle was pursued.

Ultimately, the real question of the study is: Can a deeper understanding of the reasons for dysphoria, coupled with a rearrangement of such imprinting factors, assist the person in achievinga more euphoric approach to the current lifestyle without the need to take such drastic measures as we know them today (i.e. genderal change, surgery, etc. etc.). The latter point is, of course, at the moment a pure conjecture. However, it would seem to the author and director of the project that we must continue to search

NANCY LEDINS, Ph.D.
author and director of
the Alpha Gamma Project

(Alpha Gamma Project, cont.)

for ways in which to preserve the orientation of birth and assist the incongruent person to become more congruent with himself/herself. If it is possible to achieve a greater understanding of current-life behavioral stances it is possible to alter these in a more benign way.

The study will proceed in three stages: initial interview, battery of psychological testing, age regression. The initial interview is to be conducted to establish the true pre-operative or post-operative transsexual. The psychological testings are conducted both to gather pattern information but more importantly to establish the barometer of emotional stability for the potential regression studies. The third aspect is, of course, the most important part in that the regression work will attempt to discover both this-life and past-life denominator threads.

Each case study, both as to tests and regression work, will be detailed in analysis. All studies will be collapsed into both generic and specific recommendations. The project will begin on July 1, 1980 and conclude June 30, 1983.

For further questions, contact: Nancy Ledins, PH.D., 6155 Fulton Ave., Suite 207, Van Nuys, Ca. 91401

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SOME FAMOUS TV'S

(unearthed by Dee Dee

Pauline Revere, who rode sidesaddle and bareassed thru the streets of Boston screaming, " Those dirty mothers are coming.

***

"Jaws" Washington, a camp follower, who crossed the Delaware. As she put it, MMMMM "I'll take on the whole goddam British Army."

* **

Patricia Henry, who said on the scaffold, " I had them all fooled until I forgot to sit do wn to pee."

***

Benita Franklin, who invented the three piece condom.

****

The 'one if by land and two if by sea fable.' The sexton of The Old North Church was a tv and the lanterns were used for dating. One at my place, two at yours. (The British actually came by bus)

****

The unknown captain at Bunker Hill who said, " Don't shoot until you see the whites of their petticoats.

****

Abby Lincoln who scored four times before and seven times after reaching Gettysburg.

****

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: About the letter from the married couple who were very self-conscious because she was about six inches taller than her husband, so they started going to restaurants together — she dressed as the man, and he the woman: They asked you if it was against the law, and you wisely suggested that they check their local laws.

Abby, they clearly have a legal right to dress as they wish as a part of their constitutional right to privacy.

However, should they use the public restrooms, they might run into trouble. A man caught in a women's restroom, even if he's dressed as a woman, risks being charged with violating laws against peeping toms and indecent exposure. Similarly, a woman caught dressed as a man in a women's restroom, or a man caught dressed as a woman in a men's room, may be detained to prove correct sexual identity.

Also, a man who is jailed dressed as a woman may have to fight off indecent assaults from other inmates.

So perhaps they should consider these risks when weighing whether to do something they have a legal right to do.

ARLINGTON, VA., ATTORNEY

DEAR ATTORNEY: You make several good points. Even though cross-dressing in restaurants may be legal, it's not advisable.

- COMING EVENTS -

TIFFANY CLUB 617-891-8022

OPEN MEETINGS 7pm Tues. and Sat. Quiet and relaxed evenings among friends. Help with make-up and comportment upon request. BYOB BYOF FEES: $5.00 There is no charge for special guests, and General and Key members.

BUSINESS MEETINGS 8pm the fourth Thursday of every month. All General and Key members interested in being actively involved are encouraged to attend.

PARTY 7pm September 20 at the Tiffany Club residence. All participants are asked to bring food or beverage to be shared. Coordinate your contribution with Diane B. (891-8022)

HALLOWEEN 7pm Friday October 31 in the function room of a nearby hotel (details will be spelled out on the invitations which will be available by the end of September. Food will be provided, a cash bar available, a costume contest with cash prizes, and a lot of FUN!
There will be a $5.00 cover charge, and a $5.00 attendance fee for all people who are not special guests, or general or key members of Tiffany or Mayflower.

TIFFANY THANKSGIVING 3pm Thursday, November 20, at the Tiffany residence.

BIRTHDAY PARTY 7pm Saturday, December 6
Details will be announced at a later date.

CHRISTMAS DINNER Saturday, December 20.
Details will be announced at a later date.

THE KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY 617-254-7389 Ask for Kay

OPEN MEETINGS Every Wednesday from 7pm

B&D PARTIES 7pm, the second Saturday of every month. These parties are by invitation, and there is a $5.00 cover charge.

OPEN PARTIES 7pm, the last Saturday of every month.

HARTFORD TVIC Meetings are normally scheduled for every second Saturday. However, since the destruction of TVIC's facilities, meetings are scheduled when locations can be found. For information contact: Patsy Marie Pichon, Box 180, West Hartford, Ct. 06107

XX CLUB OF HARTFORD Transsexual support. Meetings every second Saturday. For information contact: Rev. Clinton R. Jones, George W. Henry Foundation, 45 Church St., Hartford, Ct. 06103

ALBANY TVIC Meetings every third Saturday. For information contact: William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany NY 12200 Future party dates: Sept. 20, Oct. 18 (to be held in the Rochester area), Nov. 15 (to be held in the Boston Area), and the Christmas party in Albany on Dec. 20.

(Coming Events, cont.)

BLOSSOM PASTER'S PARTY Friday, October 24, in her home in Philadelphia. $12.50 cover charege covers everything. For additional information see ad on bulletin board, or write: Blossom C. Paster, 1009 Hartel Ave. Phila. Pa. 19111

OUTREACH INSTITUTE Box 368 Kenmore Sta. Boston Ma. 02215 617-277-3454

FALL FANTASIA FAIR Friday October 17 thru Sunday October 26. Stay for all or part of the nine days, or just a weekend. FF is perhaps the finest TV function in the world. Applications are available through Outreach and the Tiffany Club.

MIDWEST SUMMER GALA Annual three day summer event held in the Chicago area. For information: R. Hess 431 Barry, Chicago Ill. 60657

SHANGRI LA Annual five day springtime event held in Gulfport, Miss. For information: Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine Ca. 92664

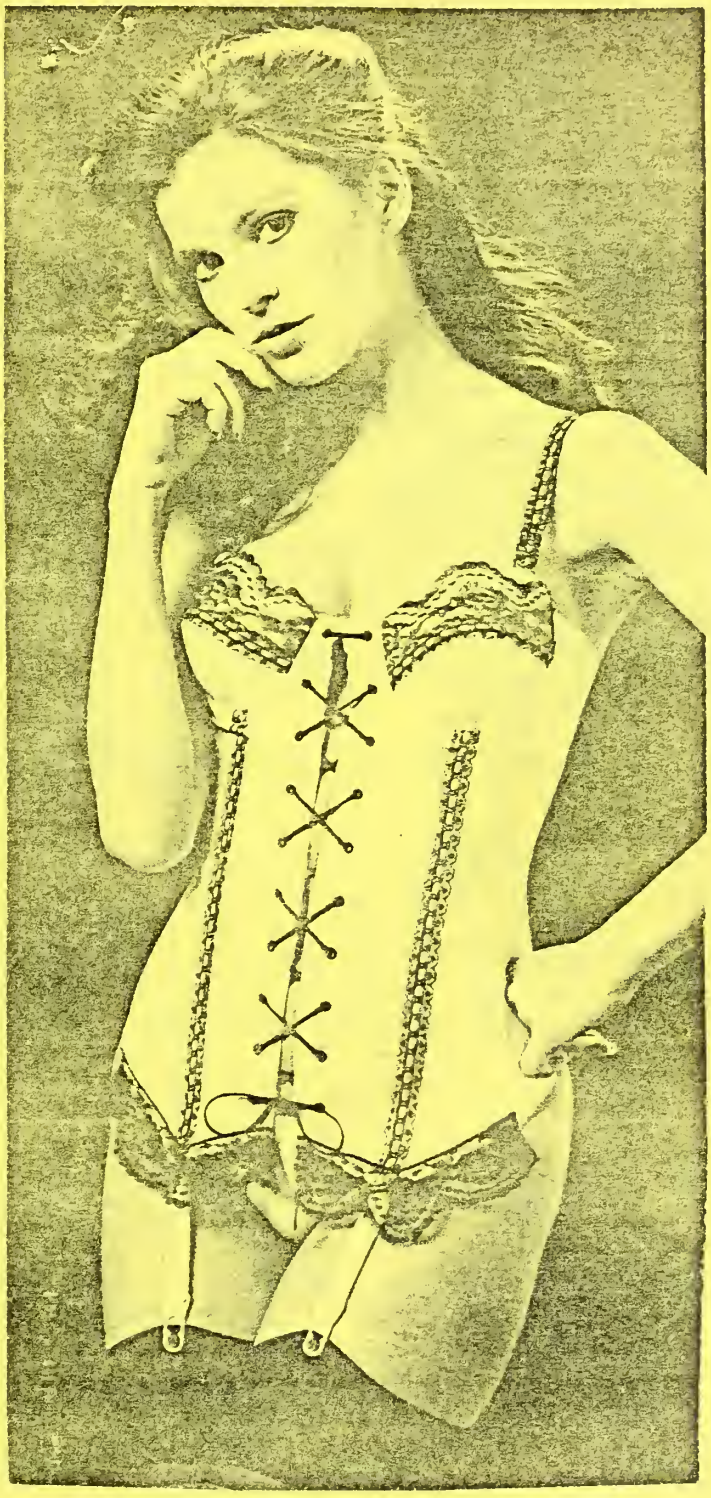
DREAM Annual five day fall event held near Seattle, Wash. For information: DREAM, box 58, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle Wash. 98104

TRI SIGMA CONVENTION Annual fall event held near New Orleans. For members of Tri Sigma only. For information contact: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, Ca. 93275

GREEN APPLE LOUNGE Rt 1, Peabody Ma. 617-535-9840. Featuring New England's finest female impersonators 7 nights a week, 2 shows nightly at 9 and 11pm. Karl Houston MC (Request; use the restroom appropriate to your sex.)

This month's guests: China, Leanna & Roger

Next month's guest: Bobbie Ray



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NEW LISTINGS

RATCHEL O. S.W.M. TV, heterosexual. Presently not a member of any other organization, but would like to correspond by mail with other TVs.
Ratchel O. P.O. 109, Monaca, Pa. 15061

MARILYN 30 years old, 145 5'8", brown hair green eyes. Am member of GGG/G, and am interested in fishing, sailing, tennis, camping and hunting. Would like to learn the art of crossdressing, make-up, walking and styling, etc. from a female.
Jerry Kelderhouse, Box 56, Maple Springs, NY 14756

ANDREA JEAN JOYCE Above average intelligence, intellectually inquisitive, open minded, humble!! Interested in speed reading the Brit. Encyclopedia daily.
Ambition: To live my life, the rest of it, androgenously, as all of me
Ms Andrea Jean Joyce, c/o Andy Janosik, 310 Greenlee Rd Apt #5, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227

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- FORUM -

MY STORY (In Brief)
by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

When I was very young I used to out-rassle the neighbor's kids, climb trees better and run faster than anybody else. As long as I did that I was being a good 'boy', and that was OK. The moment I wanted to be loved, forget it. That, I suppose, was being a sissy, so I grew up without love.

Growing up without feeling love was a lonesome and frustrating feeling. What made it particularly frustrating was watching girls being treated the way that I wanted to be treated. For instance, I remember Peggy Sue G., the apple of her proud daddy's eye, riding smugly around on that tractor while curled up in papa's protective arms. My dad never did that. Also, Sylvia D. was as much of a boy as I was. She could roughhouse with the best of us, but when she was all dressed and pretty and soft and sweet, wow, what a

(My Story, cont.)

what a difference. It's a wonder she didn't smother from all the love she received. But then, after all, she was a girl, and it was OK for girls to be loved. . . but not boys. When I saw girls being treated that way, I felt sick with envy. The message was obvious. In order to be loved, you had to be a girl. Therefore, I became a girl, at least in my dreams, and when I was alone.

When I was pretending I was a girl I was happier than at any other time in my childhood. I loved everything; my pillow, my sister's dolls (boys couldn't have dolls), and my cat Ozzie. (Ozzie never was particularly fond of playing dress-up, but then he was just a cat, and what did he know about the needs of little girls?) Being a girl gave me treasured moments of peace, love and happiness. In my childhood being a little girl was my emotional salvation. It saved me from my own sense of envy, and more importantly, it saved me from feeling hatred for those who had what I couldn't have.

My first set of rewards for crossdressing were emotional.

I remember being a cub scout, going for my webelos badge. To fulfill one of my requirements I put on a skit for the pack. Of course the skit required that I be a girl. (I wrote the skit.) My sister helped me dress, put on make-up and curled my hair and made long yarn curls that draped over my shoulders. For a 9 year old closet queen I made a first class girl, and I felt pretty good about that. That was my first introduction to the sensation of feminine pride, and it felt good. After the skit a den mother came and said, "You make a very pretty girl." Some other little boy may have felt embarrassed about that, but not me, I felt wonderful! I not only felt proud, but I felt PRETTY!

(All this happened 30 years ago, and I still haven't come down from the sheer joy I felt that evening. In fact, over the years that sense of joy has only gotten better. I can put on a three piece suit, and I feel handsome, and I feel . . eh! But, I get all dolled up, with my hair, my long nails and a nice dress with matching shoes and I feel WOW! I feel glorious, like the clouds are mine, and the world is made of beauty and love. I feel like I am poetry itself, and that is a sensation I wish all people could feel.)

My second set of rewards were sensual.

By the time I was 13 I was pretty good at being a girl, but things began to happen. Everytime I dressed up, that thing between my legs got hard and ruined the whole effect. However, it didn't take me long to enjoy that sensation as well. This new-found sexual outlet did not diminish the emotional and sensual re-

(My Story, cont.)

wards I already enjoyed, but hightened them. So by the time I was 13 I was an avowed transvestite, and enjoyed every minute of it.

My third set of rewards was sexual.

Then the world came to an end. I got caught. I had on my sister's beautiful black evening gown with gold embroidered flowers, and black shawl with silk fringe, and black patent leather pumps, when in came my mother. She shrieked so loud I think she cracked the ceiling. (It wasn't so much that I was doing something wrong, but what would the neighbors think?) She kept me cornered while she sobbed and cried and waited till dad came home with a rubber hose. I can still hear the wind whistling through that hose, and can still feel the scars on my back.

At no time in my life, not then, not now, did I ever think I was doing anything wrong. I did not learn repentance, but rather anger, fear, and how to hide. What I needed was understanding, tolerance and love. I did not need an angry beating. I learned to play shallow masculine games with people, and turned away from people and more and more towards the wilderness. I learned to identify with the wilderness, for in nature masculinity and femininity blended together in harmony is the natural order of things. In nature I found peace, a sense of harmony, and the freedom to be myself.

For 20 years the wilderness was my escape. Then I met Sherry. She was tall, beautiful, confident. She knew who and what I was. (Perhaps my almost passing out when she showed me her closet full of negligies gave her a clue.) She was attracted to me for my masculinity and loved me for my femininity. She loved me honestly and without condition. My longing, my hiding and wandering had come to an end.

Sherry was ill, and we had only a few short years together, but during those years my life became complete. Now I am proud to be me. I am a man, I am a woman, I am who I want to be. I can, at last, let my femininity soar. I am glad for today, and excited about tomorrow, and that's a beautiful way to be.

-END-